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Stakeholders' perspectives and facilities needed in the Kinabalu UNESCO Global Geopark

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Abstract

The Kinabalu UNESCO Global Geopark spans Kota Belud, Kota Marudu, and parts of the Ranau District. It is celebrated for its remarkable geology, varied ecosystems, and cultural legacy, providing a window into Earth's history and the importance of safeguarding our natural and cultural heritage. The paper discusses stakeholders' perceptions of Kinabalu Geopark and describes facilities needed to promote various site attractions within the Kinabalu Geopark. Data collection methods include sites visits and interviews with tourism operators from 27th February until 4th of March, 2023. The involved tourist sites were Melangkap Kapa, Melangkap Nahandang, Karanahan View, Walai Tobilung, Tegudon Trail (Sg. Baliajong), Serinsim Station, Poring Hotspring, Damai Eco-Ranch, Kinabalu Park Head Quarters, and Hidden Hill. The study shown that stakeholders viewed positively in developing and promoting Kinabalu Geopark as tourist attractions. The findings shown key facilities needed in the sites include proper road access, clean water, good bathroom fixture, and educational signboards. Ensuring the well-being of tourists is crucial, making basic infrastructure essential due to their relatively limited comfort. The findings is beneficial for geopark planning and development and serve as useful information and areas to focus in developing geopark as tourist attractions.

Keywords:

Kinabalu geopark, stakeholders' perspective, tourist attractions, facilities